Import of medical equipments

2254. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5047 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the condition that refurbished medical equipments imported into the country should not be more than ten years old has been waived;

(b) if so, whether the time-frame has been removed and any second hand medical equipments can be freely imported;

(c) if not, the time-frame indicated in the rules;

(d) whether this has been replaced by a condition that the residual functional life of the equipment should be at least ten years; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure/cross check that the residual life is correctly shown by the chartered engineers so that India does not become a dumping ground of obsolete medical equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry have prescribed under para 2.17 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09 that import of second hand capital goods shall be allowed freely. The restriction for import of second hand capital goods of not more than 10 years old was removed on 31.8.2004.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) and (b) above.

(d) In the current Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has not imposed any condition regarding residual functional life of imported second hand capital goods including refurbished medical equipments.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply at (d) above.

Shortfall in collection of Corporate and Income Tax

2255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall of about 40 per cent in the collection of corporate and personal Income Tax during the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure to achieve targets fixed; and

(c) the steps taken to recover tax dues from corporate houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The collections under Corporate Income Tax and Personal Income Tax up to July, 2005 are 26% higher than the collections during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

(c) Apart from the steps taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank accounts, debts, etc. attachment and sale of immovable property, etc.), the following special measures are being taken to recover direct tax dues:

1. Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
2. Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
3. No adjournment to be sought by the Departmental Representatives before ITAT in high-demand appeals and in appeals where stay of demand has been granted, without the prior approval of the Chief Commissioner.
4. Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed section 254(2A) of the Income-tax Act.
5. Requesting Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

AMFI Mutual Fund Distributors Test

2256. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made mandatory for agents to pass AMFI Mutual Fund Distributors Test conducted by NSE otherwise their agency will be terminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and